

## **Chapter 13**

### **GLOSSARY**

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***above mean sea level (AMSL)***—The elevation (on the ground) or altitude (in the air) of any object relative to the average sea level datum.

***absorbed dose***—For ionizing radiation, the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation per unit mass of the irradiated material (e.g., biological tissue). The units of absorbed dose are the rad and the gray. (See *rad* and *gray*.)

***accident sequence***—In regard to nuclear facilities, an initiating event followed by system failures or operator errors, which can result in significant core damage, confinement system failure, and/or radionuclide releases.

***actinide***—Any member of the group of elements with atomic numbers from 89 (actinium) to 103 (lawrencium) including uranium and plutonium. All members of this group are radioactive.

***activation products***—Nuclei, usually radioactive, formed by bombardment and absorption in material with neutrons, protons, or other nuclear particles.

***active fault***—A fault that is likely to have another earthquake sometime in the future. Faults are commonly considered to be active if they have moved one or more times in the last 10,000 years.

***acute exposure***—The exposure incurred during and shortly after a radiological release. Generally, the period of acute exposure ends when long-term interdiction is established, as necessary. For convenience, the period of acute exposure is normally assumed to end one week after the inception of a radiological accident.

***administrative control level***—A dose level that is established well below the regulatory limit to administratively control and help reduce individual and collective radiation doses. Facility management should establish an annual facility administrative control level that should, to the extent feasible, be more restrictive than the more general administrative control level.

***air pollutant***—Generally, an airborne substance that could, in high enough concentrations, harm living things or cause damage to materials. From a regulatory perspective, an air pollutant is a substance for which emissions or atmospheric concentrations are regulated or for which maximum guideline levels have been established due to potential harmful effects on human health and welfare.

***air quality control region***—An interstate or intrastate area designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the attainment and maintenance of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

***air quality standards***—The level of pollutants in the air prescribed by regulations that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area.

***alluvium (alluvial)***—Unconsolidated, poorly sorted detrital sediments ranging from clay to gravel sizes deposited by streams.

***alpha activity***—The emission of alpha particles by radioactive materials.

***alpha particle***—A positively charged particle ejected spontaneously from the nuclei of some radioactive elements. It is identical to a helium nucleus and has a mass number of 4 and an electrostatic charge of +2. It has low penetrating power and a short range (a few centimeters in air). (See *alpha radiation*.)

***alpha radiation***—A strongly ionizing, but weakly penetrating, form of radiation consisting of positively charged alpha particles emitted spontaneously from the nuclei of certain elements during radioactive decay. Alpha radiation is the least penetrating of the three common types of ionizing radiation (alpha, beta, and gamma). Even the most energetic alpha particle generally fails to penetrate the dead layers of cells covering the skin and can be easily stopped by a sheet of paper. Alpha radiation is most hazardous when an alpha-emitting source resides inside an organism. (See *alpha particle*.)

***alpha wastes***—Wastes containing radioactive isotopes which decay by producing alpha particles.

***ambient***—Surrounding.

***ambient air***—The surrounding atmosphere as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

***ambient air quality standards***—The level of pollutants in the air prescribed by government regulations that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area. Air quality standards are used to provide a measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air.

***aquatic***—Living or growing in, on, or near water.

***aquifer***—An underground geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation capable of yielding a significant amount of water to wells or springs.

***aquitard***—A less-permeable geologic unit that inhibits the flow of water.

***archeological sites (resources)***—Any location where humans have altered the terrain or discarded artifacts during either prehistoric or historic times.

***argon-41***—A radioactive isotope of the noble gas argon with a half-life of 1.83 hours that emits beta particles and gamma radiation. It is formed by the activation, by neutron absorption, of argon-40, a stable argon isotope present in small quantities in air.

***artifact***—An object produced or shaped by human workmanship of archeological or historical interest.

***as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA)***—An approach to radiation protection to manage and control worker and public exposures (both individual and collective) and releases of radioactive material to the environment to as far below applicable limits as social, technical,

economic, practical, and public policy considerations permit. ALARA is not a dose limit but a process for minimizing doses to as far below limits as is practicable.

***atmospheric dispersion***—The process of air pollutants being dispersed in the atmosphere. This occurs by wind that carries the pollutants away from their source, by turbulent air motion that results from solar heating of the Earth's surface, and by air movement over rough terrain and surfaces.

***Atomic Energy Act of 1954***—This Act was originally enacted in 1946 and amended in 1954. For the purpose of this Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, "...a program for Government control of the possession, use, and production of atomic energy and special nuclear material whether owned by the Government or others, so directed as to make the maximum contribution to the common defense and security and the national welfare, and to provide continued assurance of the Government's ability to enter into and enforce agreements with nations or groups of nations for the control of special nuclear materials and atomic weapons..." (Section 3(c)).

***Atomic Energy Commission***—A five-member commission, established by the *Atomic Energy Act* of 1946, to supervise nuclear weapons design, development, manufacturing, maintenance, modification, and dismantlement. In 1974, the Atomic Energy Commission was abolished, and all functions were transferred to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration. The Energy Research and Development Administration was later terminated, and functions vested by law in the Administrator were transferred to the Secretary of Energy.

***atomic number***—The number of positively charged protons in the nucleus of an atom or the number of electrons on an electrically neutral atom.

***attainment area***—An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as being in compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants but not for others. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*, *nonattainment area*, and *particulate matter*.)

***attractiveness level***—A categorization of nuclear material types and compositions that reflects the relative ease of processing and handling required to convert that material to a nuclear explosive device.

***background radiation***—Radiation from: 1) Cosmic sources; 2) Naturally occurring radioactive materials, including radon (except as a decay product of source or special nuclear material); 3) Global fallout as it exists in the environment (e.g., from the testing of nuclear explosive devices); 4) Air travel; 5) Consumer and industrial products; and 6) Diagnostic x-rays and nuclear medicine.

***badged worker***—A worker equipped with an individual dosimeter who has the potential to be exposed to radiation.

**barrier**—Any material or structure that prevents or substantially delays movement of radionuclides toward the accessible environment.

**basalt**—The most common volcanic rock, dark gray to black in color, high in iron and magnesium, and low in silica. It is typically found in lava flows.

**baseline**—The existing environmental conditions against which impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives can be compared. For this EIS, the environmental baseline is the site environmental conditions as they exist or are estimated to exist in the absence of the proposed action.

**becquerel**—A unit of radioactivity equal to one disintegration per second. Thirty-seven billion becquerels equal one curie.

**BEIR V**—Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation; referring to the fifth in a series of committee reports from the National Research Council.

**benthic**—Plants and animals dwelling at the bottom of oceans, lakes, rivers, and other surface waters.

**beryllium**—An extremely lightweight element with the atomic number 4, it is metallic and used in reactors as a neutron reflector.

**best available control technology (BACT)**—A term used in the Federal *Clean Air Act* that means the most stringent level of air pollutant control considering economics for a specific type of source based on demonstrated technology.

**beta emitter**—A radioactive substance that decays by releasing a beta particle.

**beta particle**—A particle emitted in the radioactive decay of many radionuclides. A beta particle is identical to an electron. It has a short range in air and a small ability to penetrate other materials.

**beyond-design-basis accident**—An accident postulated for the purpose of generating large consequences by exceeding the functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components. (See *design-basis accident*.)

**beyond-design-basis events**—Postulated disturbances in process variables due to external events or multiple component or system failures that can potentially lead to beyond-design-basis accidents. (See *design-basis events*.)

**biota (biotic)**—The plant and animal life of a region (pertaining to biota).

**block**—U.S. Bureau of the Census term describing small areas bounded on all sides by visible features or political boundaries; used in tabulation of census data.

***bounded***—Producing the greatest consequences of any assessment of impacts associated with normal or abnormal operations.

***burial ground***—In regard to radioactive waste, a place for burying unwanted radioactive materials in which the Earth acts as a receptacle to prevent the escape of radiation and the dispersion of waste into the environment.

***Cambrian***—The earliest geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 570 and 505 million years ago.

***cancer***—The name given to a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cellular growth, with cells having invasive characteristics such that the disease can transfer from one organ to another.

***canister***—A general term for a container, usually cylindrical, used in handling, storage, transportation, or disposal of waste.

***canned subassembly***—The component of a nuclear weapon which contains the secondary uranium and lithium elements.

***capability-based deterrence***—Deterrence based on the capability to respond to stockpile reliability and safety problems and to meet new requirements.

***capable fault***—A fault that has exhibited one or more of the following characteristics: 1) Movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years, or movement of a recurring nature within the past 500,000 years; 2) Macroseismicity instrumentally determined with records of sufficient precision to demonstrate a direct relationship with the fault; 3) A structural relationship to a capable fault according to characteristic 1) or 2) above, such that movement on one could reasonably be expected to be accompanied by movement on the other.

***capacity factor***—The ratio of the annual average power production of a power plant to its rated capacity.

***carbon adsorption***—A unit physiochemical process in which organic and certain inorganic compounds in a liquid stream are absorbed on a bed of activated carbon; used in measuring water or waste purification and chemical processing.

***carbon dioxide***—A colorless, odorless gas that is a normal component of ambient air; it results from fossil fuel combustion and is an expiration product.

***carbon monoxide***—A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion.

**carcinogen**—An agent that may cause cancer. Ionizing radiations are physical carcinogens; there are also chemical and biological carcinogens, and biological carcinogens may be external (e.g., viruses) or internal (genetic defects).

**carolina bay**—Ovate, intermittently flooded depression of a type occurring on the Coastal Plain from New Jersey to Florida.

**cask**—A heavily shielded container used to store or ship radioactive materials.

**categories of special nuclear material (Categories I, II, III, and IV)**—A designation, consistent with DOE Manual 470.4–6 Nuclear Material Control and Accountability, determined by the quantity and type of special nuclear material or a designation of a special nuclear material location based on the type and form of the material and the amount of nuclear material present. A designation of the significance of special nuclear material based upon the material type, the form of the material, and the amount of material present in an item, grouping of items, or in a location.

**cation**—A positively charged ion.

**cell**—See *hot cell*.

**chain reaction**—A reaction that initiates its own repetition. In nuclear fission, a chain reaction occurs when a neutron induces a nucleus to fission and the fissioning nucleus releases one or more neutrons, which induce other nuclei to fission.

**chemical oxygen demand**—A measure of the quantity of chemically oxidizable components present in water.

**chronic exposure**—Low-level radiation exposure incurred over a long period of time.

**cladding**—The outer metal jacket of a nuclear fuel element or target. It prevents fuel corrosion and retains fission products during reactor operation and subsequent storage, as well as providing structural support. Zirconium alloys, stainless steel, and aluminum are common cladding materials. In general, a metal coating bonded onto another metal.

**Class I areas**—A specifically designated area where the degradation of air quality is stringently restricted (e.g., many national parks and wilderness areas). (See *prevention of significant deterioration*.)

**Class II areas**—Most of the country not designated as Class I is designated as Class II. Class II areas are generally cleaner than air quality standards require, and moderate increases in new pollution are allowed after a regulatory-mandated impacts review. (See *prevention of significant deterioration*.)

**classified information**—Information that is classified as Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data under the *Atomic Energy Act* of 1954, as amended, or information determined to require



protection against unauthorized disclosure under Executive Order 12958 or prior Executive Orders, which is identified as National Security Information.

***clastic***—Rock or sediment made up primarily of broken fragments of pre-existing rocks or minerals.

***Clean Air Act of 1990***—This Act mandates and enforces air pollutant emissions standards for stationary sources and motor vehicles.

***Clean Water Act 1972, 1987***—This Act regulates the discharge of pollutants from a point source into navigable waters of the United States in compliance with a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit as well as regulates discharges to or dredging of wetlands.

***climatology***—The science that deals with climates and investigates their phenomena and causes.

***Code of Federal Regulations***—The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register* by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation.

***collective dose***—The sum of the individual doses received in a given period of time by a specified population from exposure to a specified source of radiation. Collective dose is expressed in units of person-rem or person-sieverts.

***colluvium (colluvial)***—A loose deposit of rock debris accumulated at the base of a cliff or slope.

***combined impact***—Depending on the scope of the program concerned, a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement may address more than one “Purpose and Need,” each with its own set of alternatives. These several actions, however, may have common environments. The sum of these impacts with respect to the site concerned are combined impacts, as opposed to cumulative impacts, which incorporate the site-specific impacts of activities not otherwise related to the actions and alternatives in question.

***committed dose equivalent***—The dose equivalent to organs or tissues that will be received by an individual during the 50-year period following the intake of radioactive material. It does not include contributions from external radiation sources. Committed dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts.

***committed effective dose equivalent***—The dose value obtained by: 1) Multiplying the committed dose equivalents for the organs or tissues that are irradiated and the weighting factors applicable to those organs or tissues; and 2) Summing all the resulting products. Committed effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *weighting factor*.)

***community (biotic)***—All plants and animals occupying a specific area under relatively similar conditions.

**community (environmental justice)**—A group of people or a site within a spatial scope exposed to risks that potentially threaten health, ecology, or land values or are exposed to industry that stimulates unwanted noise, smells, industrial traffic, particulate matter, or other non-aesthetic impacts.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (Superfund)**—This Act provides regulatory framework for remediation of past contamination from hazardous waste. If a site meets the Act's requirements for designation, it is ranked along with other "Superfund" sites and is listed on the National Priorities List. This ranking is the Environmental Protection Agency's way of determining which sites have the highest priority for cleanup.

**Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**—A proposed treaty prohibiting nuclear tests of all magnitudes.

**computational modeling**—Use of a computer to develop a mathematical model of a complex system or process and to provide conditions for testing it.

**conformity**—Conformity is defined in the *Clean Air Act* as the action's compliance with an implementation plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, expeditious attainment of such standards, and that such activities will not: 1) Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; 2) Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or 3) Delay timely attainment of any standard, required interim emission reduction, or other milestones in any area.

**consumptive water use**—The difference in the volume of water withdrawn from a body of water and the amount released back into the body of water.

**contact-handled waste**—Radioactive waste or waste packages whose external dose rate is low enough to permit contact handling by humans during normal waste management activities (e.g., waste with a surface dose rate not greater than 200 millirem per hour). (See *remote-handled waste*.)

**container**—In regard to radioactive waste, the metal envelope in the waste package that provides the primary containment function of the waste package, which is designed to meet the containment requirements of 10 CFR Part 60.

**contamination**—The deposition of undesirable radioactive material on the surfaces of structures, areas, objects, or personnel.

**conventional weapon**—A weapon that is neither nuclear, biological, nor chemical.

**cooperating agency**—Any Federal agency other than a lead agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the

quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1508.5). A State, local, or tribal government also may agree to be a cooperating agency.

***credible accident***—An accident that has a probability of occurrence greater than or equal to once in a one-million-year timeframe.

***Cretaceous***—The final geologic time period of the Mesozoic era, spanning between about 144 and 66 million years ago. The end of this period also marks the end of dinosaur life on Earth.

***criteria pollutants***—Six air pollutants for which the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Title I of the Federal *Clean Air Act*: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter, less than or equal to 10 micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter, and less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter. New pollutants may be added to, or removed from, the list of criteria pollutants as more information becomes available.

***critical assembly***—A critical assembly is a system of fissile material (uranium-233, uranium-235, or plutonium-239) with or without a moderator in a specific proportion and shape. The critical assembly can be gradually built up by adding additional fissile material and/or moderator until this system achieves the dimensions necessary for a criticality condition. A continuous neutron source is placed at the center of this assembly to measure the fission rate of the critical assembly as it approaches and reaches criticality.

***critical habitat***—Defined in the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973 as “specific areas within the geographical area occupied by [an endangered or threatened] species..., essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species...that are essential for the conservation of the species.”

***critical mass***—The smallest mass of fissionable material that will support a self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction.

***criticality***—The condition in which a system is capable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction.

***cultural resources***—Archeological sites, historical sites, architectural features, traditional use areas, and Native American sacred sites.

***cumulative impacts***—The impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of the agency or person who undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

***curie***—A unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second (i.e., 37 billion becquerels); also a quantity of any radionuclide or mixture of radionuclides having one curie of radioactivity.

***day-night average sound level***—The 24-hour, A-weighted equivalent sound level expressed in decibels. A 10-decibel penalty is added to sound levels between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to account for increased annoyance due to noise during night hours.

***decay (radioactive)***—The decrease in the amount of any radioactive material with the passage of time, due to spontaneous nuclear disintegration (i.e., emission from atomic nuclei of charged particles, photons, or both).

***decibel (dB)***—A unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a logarithmic scale where 0 is below human perception and 130 is above the threshold of pain to humans. For traffic and industrial noise measurements, the A-weighted decibel, a frequency-weighted noise unit, is widely used. The A-weighted decibel scale corresponds approximately to the frequency response of the human ear and thus correlates well with loudness.

***decibel, A-weighted (dBA)***—A unit of frequency-weighted sound pressure level, measured by the use of a metering characteristic and the “A” weighting specified by the American National Standards Institution (ANSI S1.4-1983 [R1594]) that accounts for the frequency response of the human ear.

***decommissioning***—Retirement of a facility, including any necessary decontamination and/or dismantlement.

***decontamination***—The actions taken to reduce or remove substances that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, such as radioactive or chemical contamination from facilities, equipment, or soils by washing, heating, chemical or electrochemical action, mechanical cleaning, or other techniques.

***defense-in-depth***—The use of multiple, independent protection elements combined in a layered manner so that the system capabilities do not depend on a single component to maintain effective protection against defined threats.

***°C (degrees Celsius)***—A unit for measuring temperature using the centigrade scale in which the freezing point of water is 0 degrees and the boiling point is 100 degrees.

***°F (degrees Fahrenheit)***—A unit for measuring temperature using the Fahrenheit scale in which the freezing point of water is 32 degrees and the boiling point is 212 degrees.

***delayed critical devices***—A critical assembly designed to reach the condition of delayed supercriticality. Delayed criticality is the nuclear physics supercriticality condition, where the neutron multiplication factor of the assembly is between 1 (critical) and 1 plus the delayed neutron fraction. (See *delayed neutrons*.)

***delayed neutrons***—Neutrons emitted from fission products by beta decay following fission by intervals of seconds to minutes. Delayed neutrons account for approximately 0.2 to 0.7 percent of all fission neutrons. For uranium-235, the delayed neutron fraction is about 0.007; for plutonium-239, it is about 0.002.

**depleted uranium (DU)**—Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is less than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium, so that it contains more uranium-238 than natural uranium.

**deposition**—In geology, the laying down of potential rock-forming materials; sedimentation. In atmospheric transport, the settling out on ground and building surfaces of atmospheric aerosols and particles (“dry deposition”), or their removal from the air to the ground by precipitation (“wet deposition” or “rainout”).

**design basis**—For nuclear facilities, information that identifies the specific functions to be performed by a structure, system, or component, and the specific values (or ranges of values) chosen for controlling parameters for reference bounds for design. These values may be: 1) Restraints derived from generally accepted state-of-the-art practices for achieving functional goals; 2) Requirements derived from analysis (based on calculation and/or experiments) of the effects of a postulated accident for which a structure, system, or component must meet its functional goals; or 3) Requirements derived from Federal safety objectives, principles, goals, or requirements.

**design-basis accident**—An accident postulated for the purpose of establishing functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components.

**design-basis events**—Postulated disturbances in process variables that can potentially lead to design-basis accidents.

**design-basis threat**—The elements of a threat postulated for the purpose of establishing requirements for safeguards and security programs, systems, components, equipment, information. (See *threat*.)

**deuterium**—A nonradioactive isotope of the element hydrogen with one neutron and one proton in the atomic nucleus.

**dewatering**—The removal of water. Saturated soils are “dewatered” to make construction of building foundations easier.

**direct economic effects**—The initial increases in output from different sectors of the economy resulting from some new activity within a predefined geographic region.

**direct effect multiplier**—The total change in regional earnings and employment in all related industries as a result of a one-dollar change in earnings and a one-job change in a given industry.

**direct jobs**—The number of workers required at a site to implement an alternative.

**disposition**—The ultimate “fate” or end use of a surplus Department of Energy facility following the transfer of the facility to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Waste Management.

***diversion***—The unauthorized removal of nuclear material from its approved use or authorized location.

***dolomite***—Calcium magnesium carbonate, a limestone-like mineral.

***dolostone***—A carbonate rock made up predominately of the mineral dolomite,  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ .

***dose***—A generic term that means absorbed dose, effective dose equivalent, committed effective dose equivalent, or total effective dose equivalent, as defined elsewhere in this Glossary. It is a measure of the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation. The unit of dose is the rem or rad.

***dose equivalent***—A measure of radiological dose that correlates with biological effect on a common scale for all types of ionizing radiation. Defined as a quantity equal to the absorbed dose in tissue multiplied by a quality factor (the biological effectiveness of a given type of radiation) and all other necessary modifying factors at the location of interest. The units of dose equivalent are the rem and sievert.

***dose rate***—The radiation dose delivered per unit of time (e.g., rem per year).

***dosimeter***—A small device (instrument) carried by a radiation worker that measures cumulative radiation dose (e.g., a film badge or ionization chamber).

***drainage basin***—An aboveground area that supplies the water to a particular stream.

***drawdown***—The height difference between the natural water level in a formation and the reduced water level in the formation caused by the withdrawal of groundwater.

***drinking water standards***—The level of constituents or characteristics in a drinking water supply specified in regulations under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* as the maximum permissible.

***ecology***—A branch of science dealing with the interrelationships of living organisms with one another and with their nonliving environment.

***ecosystem***—A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

***effective dose equivalent***—The dose value obtained by multiplying the dose equivalents received by specified tissues or organs of the body by the appropriate weighting factors applicable to the tissues or organs irradiated, and then summing all of the resulting products. It includes the dose from internal and external radiation sources. The effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *committed effective dose equivalent*.)

***effluent***—A gas or fluid discharged into the environment.

**electron**—An elementary particle with a mass of  $9.107 \times 10^{-23}$  gram (or 1/1,836 of a proton) and a negative charge. Electrons surround the positively charged nucleus and determine the chemical properties of the atom.

**Emergency Response Planning Guideline (ERPG)-1**—The maximum airborne concentration below which nearly all individuals could be exposed for up to one hour without experiencing other than mild transient adverse health effects or perceiving a clearly defined objectionable odor. **ERPG-2** is the maximum airborne concentration below which nearly all individuals could be exposed for up to one hour without experiencing or developing irreversible or other serious health effects or symptoms that could impair their abilities to take protective action. **ERPG-3** is the maximum airborne concentration below which nearly all individuals could be exposed for up to 1 hour without experiencing or developing life-threatening health effects.

**emission**—A material discharged into the atmosphere from a source operation or activity.

**emission standards**—Legally enforceable limits on the quantities and/or kinds of air contaminants that can be emitted into the atmosphere.

**endangered species**—Defined in the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973 as “any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.”

**Endangered Species Act of 1973**—This Act requires Federal agencies, with the consultation and assistance of the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, to ensure that their actions will not likely jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or adversely affect the habitat of such species.

**engineered safety features**—For a nuclear facility, features that prevent, limit, or mitigate the release of radioactive material from its primary containment.

**enriched uranium (EU)**—Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is greater than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium. (See *uranium*, *depleted uranium*, and *natural uranium*.)

**Environment, Safety, and Health Program**—In the context of DOE, encompasses those requirements, activities, and functions in the conduct of all DOE and DOE-controlled operations that are concerned with: impacts on the biosphere; compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and standards controlling air, water, and soil pollution; limiting the risks to the well-being of both the operating personnel and the general public; and protecting property against accidental loss and damage. Typical activities and functions related to this program include, but are not limited to, environmental protection, occupational safety, fire protection, industrial hygiene, health physics, occupational medicine, process and facility safety, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and radioactive and hazardous waste management.

**environmental assessment**—A written environmental analysis that is prepared pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* to determine whether a Federal action would significantly affect the environment and thus require the preparation of a more detailed environmental impact

statement. If the action would not significantly affect the environment, then a finding of no significant impact is prepared.

***environmental impact statement***—The detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of the *National Environmental Policy Act* for a proposed major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A DOE EIS is prepared in accordance with applicable requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality *National Environmental Policy Act* regulations in 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 and the DOE *National Environmental Policy Act* regulations in 10 CFR Part 1021. The statement includes, among other information, discussions of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives; adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented; the relationship between short-term uses of the human environment and enhancement of long-term productivity; and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

***environmental justice***—The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, State, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

***environmental survey***—A documented, multidisciplinary assessment (with sampling and analysis) of a facility to determine environmental conditions and to identify environmental problems requiring corrective action.

***Eocene***—A geologic epoch early in the Cenozoic era, dating from approximately 54 to 38 million years ago.

***ephemeral stream***—A stream that flows only after a period of heavy precipitation.

***epicenter***—The point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.

***epidemiology***—Study of the occurrence, causes, and distribution of disease and/or other health-related states and events in human populations, often as related to age, sex, occupation, ethnic, and economic status, to identify and alleviate health problems and promote better health.

***exposure limit***—The level of exposure to a hazardous chemical (set by law or a standard) at which or below which adverse human health effects are not expected to occur. ***Reference dose*** is the chronic-exposure dose (milligrams or kilograms per day) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.



**Reference concentration** is the chronic exposure concentration (milligrams per cubic meter) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.

**fault**—A fracture or a zone of fractures within a rock formation along which vertical, horizontal, or transverse slippage has occurred. A normal fault occurs when the hanging wall has been depressed in relation to the footwall. A reverse fault occurs when the hanging wall has been raised in relation to the footwall.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**—A document by a Federal agency briefly presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and will not require an environmental impact statement.

**fissile materials**—An isotope that readily fissions after absorbing a neutron of any energy. Fissile materials are uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, and plutonium-241. Uranium-235 is the only naturally occurring fissile isotope.

**fission**—The splitting of the nucleus of a heavy atom into two lighter nuclei. It is accompanied by the release of neutrons, gamma rays, and kinetic energy of fission products.

**fission products**—Nuclei (fission fragments) formed by the fission of heavy elements, plus the nuclides formed by the fission fragments' radioactive decay.

**fissure**—A long and narrow crack in the earth.

**floodplain**—The lowlands and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters and the flood-prone areas of offshore islands. Floodplains include, at a minimum, that area with at least a 1.0 percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year. **Base floodplain**—The area which has a 1.0 percent or greater chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 100-year flood. **Critical action floodplain**—The area which has at least a 0.2 percent chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 500-year flood. Any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great (e.g., the storage of highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials) should not occur in the critical action floodplain.

**Probable maximum flood**—The hypothetical flood considered to be the most severe reasonably possible flood, based on the comprehensive hydrometeorological application of maximum precipitation and other hydrological factors favorable for maximum flood runoff (e.g., sequential storms and snowmelts). It is usually several times larger than the maximum recorded flood.

**flux**—Rate of flow through a unit area; in reactor operation, the apparent flow of neutrons in a defined energy range. (See *neutron flux*.)

**formation**—In geology, the primary unit of formal stratigraphic mapping or description. Most formations possess certain distinctive features.

***fossil***—Impression or trace of an animal or plant of past geological ages that has been preserved in the Earth's crust.

***fossiliferous***—Containing a relatively large number of fossils.

***fugitive emissions***—1) Emissions that do not pass through a stack, vent, chimney, or similar opening where they could be captured by a control device; or 2) Any air pollutant emitted to the atmosphere other than from a stack. Sources of fugitive emissions include pumps; valves; flanges; seals; area sources such as ponds, lagoons, landfills, piles of stored material (e.g., coal); and road construction areas or other areas where earthwork is occurring.

***fusion***—Nuclear reaction in which light nuclei are fused together to form a heavier nucleus, accompanied by the release of immense amounts of energy and fast neutrons.

***gamma radiation***—High-energy, short wavelength, electromagnetic radiation emitted from the nucleus of an atom during radioactive decay. Gamma radiation frequently accompanies alpha and beta emissions and always accompanies fission. Gamma rays are very penetrating and are best stopped or shielded by dense materials, such as lead or depleted uranium. Gamma rays are similar to, but are usually more energetic than, x-rays.

***Gaussian plume***—The distribution of material (a plume) in the atmosphere resulting from the release of pollutants from a stack or other source. The distribution of concentrations about the centerline of the plume, which is assumed to decrease as a function of its distance from the source and centerline (Gaussian distribution), depends on the mean wind speed and atmospheric stability.

***genetic effects***—Inheritable changes (chiefly mutations) produced by exposure of the parts of cells that control biological reproduction and inheritance to ionizing radiation or other chemical or physical agents.

***GENII***—A computer code used to predict the radiological impacts on individuals and populations associated with the release of radioactive material into the environment during normal operations and postulated accidents.

***geology***—The science that deals with the Earth: the materials, processes, environments, and history of the planet, including rocks and their formation and structure.

***glovebox***—A large enclosure that separates workers from equipment used to process hazardous material while allowing the workers to be in physical contact with the equipment; normally constructed of stainless steel, with large acrylic/lead glass windows. Workers have access to equipment through the use of heavy-duty, lead-impregnated rubber gloves, the cuffs of which are sealed in portholes in the glovebox windows.

***gray***—The International System of Units (SI) unit of absorbed dose. One gray is equal to an absorbed dose of 1 joule per kilogram (1 gray is equal to 100 rad). (The joule is the SI unit of energy.) (See *absorbed dose*.)

**groundwater**—Water below the ground surface in a zone of saturation.

**habitat**—The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

**half-life**—The time in which one-half of the atoms of a particular radioactive isotope disintegrate to another nuclear form. Half-lives vary from millionths of a second to billions of years.

**Hazard Index**—A summation of the Hazard Quotients for all chemicals being used at a site and those proposed to be added to yield cumulative levels for a site. A Hazard Index value of 1.0 or less means that no adverse human health effects (noncancer) are expected to occur.

**Hazard Quotient**—The value used as an assessment of non-cancer-associated toxic effects of chemicals, e.g., kidney or liver dysfunction. It is a ratio of the estimated exposure to that exposure at which it would be expected that adverse health effects would begin to be produced. It is independent of cancer risk, which is calculated only for those chemicals identified as carcinogens.

**hazardous air pollutants**—Air pollutants not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards but which may present a threat of adverse human health or environmental effects. Those specifically listed in 40 CFR 61.01 are asbestos, benzene, beryllium, coke oven emissions, inorganic arsenic, mercury, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride. More broadly, hazardous air pollutants are any of the 188 pollutants to be regulated or renewed under Section 112(b) of the *Clean Air Act*. Very generally, hazardous air pollutants are any air pollutants that may realistically be expected to pose a threat to human health or welfare.

**hazardous chemical**—Under 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart Z, hazardous chemicals are defined as “any chemical which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.” Physical hazards include combustible liquids, compressed gases, explosives, flammables, organic peroxides, oxidizers, pyrophorics, and reactives. A health hazard is any chemical for which there is good evidence that acute or chronic health effects occur in exposed employees. Hazardous chemicals include carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, agents that act on the hematopoietic system, and agents that damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

**hazardous material**—A material, including a hazardous substance, as defined by 49 CFR 171.8, which poses a risk to health, safety, and property when transported or handled.

**hazardous substance**—Any substance subject to the reporting and possible response provisions of the *Clean Water Act* and the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act*.

**hazardous waste**—A category of waste regulated under the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*. To be considered hazardous, a waste must be a solid waste under the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act* and must exhibit at least one of four characteristics described in

40 CFR 261.20 through 261.24 (i.e., ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or be specifically listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR 261.31–261.33.

***hazards classification***—The process of identifying the potential threat to human health of a chemical substance.

***heavy metals***—Metallic or semimetallic elements of high molecular weight, such as mercury, chromium, cadmium, lead, and arsenic, that are toxic to plants and animals at known concentrations.

***high-efficiency particulate air filter***—An air filter capable of removing at least 99.97 percent of particles 0.3 micrometers (about 0.00001 inches) in diameter. These filters generally include a pleated fibrous medium, typically fiberglass, capable of capturing very small particles.

***high-level radioactive waste***—The highly radioactive waste material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations, and other highly radioactive material that is determined, consistent with existing law, to require permanent isolation.

***high-multiplication devices***—A critical assembly for producing nondestructive superprompt critical nuclear excursions. These types of devices are sometimes called prompt burst devices. (See *prompt critical device* and *nuclear excursion*.)

***highly enriched uranium (HEU)***—Uranium in which the abundance of the isotope uranium-235 is increased well above normal (naturally occurring) levels.

***HIGHWAY***—A computer code used for predicting routes for transporting radioactive material in the United States and calculating route-specific population density statistics.

***historic resources***—Physical remains that postdate the emergence of written records; in the United States, they are architectural structures or districts, archeological objects, and archeological features dating from 1492 and later.

***Holocene***—The current epoch of geologic time, which began approximately 10,000 years ago.

***hot cell***—A shielded facility that requires the use of remote manipulators for handling radioactive materials.

***hydrodynamic test***—High-explosive non-nuclear experiment to investigate hydrodynamic aspects of primary function up to mid to late stages of pit implosion.

***hydrodynamics***—The study of the motion of a fluid and of the interactions of the fluid with its boundaries, especially in the case of an incompressible inviscid fluid.

**hydrology**—The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of natural water systems.

**impingement**—The process by which aquatic organisms too large to pass through the screens of a water intake structure become caught on the screens and are unable to escape.

**incident-free risk**—The radiological or chemical impacts resulting from emissions during normal operations and packages aboard vehicles in normal transport. This includes the radiation or hazardous chemical exposure of specific population groups such as crew, passengers, and bystanders.

**indirect economic effects**—Indirect effects result from the need to supply industries experiencing direct economic effects with additional outputs to allow them to increase their production. The additional output from each directly affected industry requires inputs from other industries within a region (i.e., purchases of goods and services). This results in a multiplier effect to show the change in total economic activity resulting from a new activity in a region.

**indirect jobs**—Within a regional economic area, jobs generated or lost in related industries as a result of a change in direct employment.

**induced economic effects**—The spending of households resulting from direct and indirect economic effects. Increases in output from a new economic activity lead to an increase in household spending throughout the economy as firms increase their labor inputs.

**injection well**—A well that takes water from the surface into the ground, either through gravity or by mechanical means.

**ion**—An atom that has too many or too few electrons, causing it to be electrically charged.

**ionizing radiation**—Alpha particles, beta particles, gamma rays, high-speed electrons, high-speed protons, and other particles or electromagnetic radiation that can displace electrons from atoms or molecules, thereby producing ions.

**irradiated**—Exposure to ionizing radiation. The condition of reactor fuel elements and other materials in which atoms bombarded with nuclear particles have undergone nuclear changes.

**isotope**—An atom of a chemical element with a specific atomic number and atomic mass. Isotopes of the same element have the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons and different atomic masses.

**joint test assembly (JTA)**—A nonnuclear test configuration with diagnostic instrumentation of a warhead or bomb.

**joule**—A metric unit of energy, work, or heat, equivalent to 1 watt-second, 0.737 foot-pounds, or 0.239 calories.

**lacustrine wetland**—Lakes, ponds, and other enclosed open water at least 8 ha (20 acres) in extent and not dominated by trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation.

**latent cancer fatalities (LTF)**—Deaths from cancer occurring some time after, and postulated to be due to, exposure to ionizing radiation or other carcinogens.

**limestone**—A sedimentary rock composed mostly of the mineral calcite,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

**lithic**—Pertaining to stone or a stone tool.

**loam**—A soil composed of a mixture of clay, silt, sand, and organic matter.

**long-lived radionuclides**—Radioactive isotopes with half-lives greater than 30 years.

**low-income population**—Low-income populations, defined in terms of U.S. Bureau of the Census annual statistical poverty levels (*Current Population Reports*, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty), may consist of groups or individuals who live in geographic proximity to one another or who are geographically dispersed or transient (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *minority population*.) From an environmental justice standpoint, low-income populations exist in those census tracts where greater than 50 percent of the population is living below the poverty threshold as defined above.

**low-level radioactive waste**—Waste that contains radioactivity but is not classified as high-level radioactive waste, transuranic waste, spent nuclear fuel, or byproduct material as defined by Section 11e (2) of the *Atomic Energy Act* of 1954, as amended. Test specimens of fissionable material irradiated for research and development only, and not for the production of power or plutonium, may be classified as low-level radioactive waste, provided the concentration of transuranic waste is less than 100 nanocuries per gram.

**magnitude**—A number that reflects the relative strength or size of an earthquake. Magnitude is based on the logarithmic measurement of the maximum motion recorded by a seismograph. An increase of one unit of magnitude (for example, from 4.6 to 5.6) represents a 10-fold increase in wave amplitude on a seismograph recording or approximately a 30-fold increase in the energy released. Several scales have been defined, but the most commonly used are: 1) Local magnitude (ML), commonly referred to as "Richter magnitude"; 2) Surface-wave magnitude ( $M_s$ ); 3) Body-wave magnitude ( $M_b$ ); and 4) Moment magnitude ( $M_w$ ). Each is valid for a particular type of seismic signal varying by such factors as frequency and distance. These magnitude scales will yield approximately the same value for any given earthquake within each scale's respective range of validity.

**material access area**—A type of security area that is authorized to contain a security Category I quantity of special nuclear material and which has specifically defined physical barriers, is located within a Protected Area, and is subject to specific access controls.

**material control and accountability**—The part of safeguards that detects or deters theft or diversion of nuclear materials and provides assurance that all nuclear materials are accounted for appropriately.

**maximally exposed individual (MEI)**—A hypothetical offsite member of the public whose location and habits result in the highest total radiological or chemical exposure (and thus dose) from a particular source for all exposures (e.g., inhalation, ingestion, or direct exposure).

**maximum contaminant level**—The designation for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for drinking water quality under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. The maximum contaminant level for a given substance is the maximum permissible concentration of that substance in water delivered by a public water system. The primary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR Part 141) are intended to protect public health and are federally enforceable. They are based on health factors, but are also required by law to reflect the technological and economic feasibility of removing the contaminant from the water supply. Secondary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR Part 143) are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the public welfare. The secondary drinking water regulations control substances in drinking water that primarily affect aesthetic qualities (such as taste, odor, and color) relating to the public acceptance of water. These regulations are not federally enforceable, but are intended as guidelines for the States.

**megajoule**—A unit of heat, work, or energy equal to 1 million joules. (See *joule*.)

**megawatt**—A unit of power equal to one million watts. Megawatt-thermal is commonly used to define heat produced, while megawatt-electric defines electricity produced.

**meteorology**—The science dealing with the atmosphere and its phenomena, especially as relating to weather.

**micron**—One-millionth of one meter.

**migration**—The natural movement of a material through the air, soil, or groundwater; also, seasonal movement of animals from one area to another.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act**—This Act states that it is unlawful to pursue, take, attempt to take, capture, possess, or kill any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird other than permitted activities.

**million electron volts (MeV)**—A unit used to quantify energy. In this EIS, it describes a particle's kinetic energy, which is an indicator of particle speed.

**millirem**—One-thousandth of one rem.

**minority population**—Minority populations exist where either: 1) The minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent; or 2) The minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic

analysis (such as a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit). "Minority" refers to individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. "Minority populations" include either a single minority group or the total of all minority persons in the affected area. They may consist of groups of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *low-income population*.)

**Miocene**—An epoch of the upper Tertiary Period, spanning between approximately 24 and 5 million years ago.

**mitigate**—Mitigation includes: 1) Avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; 2) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action and its implementation; 3) Rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; 4) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of an action; or 5) Compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**mixed waste**—Waste that contains both nonradioactive hazardous waste and radioactive waste, as defined in this glossary.

**Modified Mercalli Intensity**—A level on the modified Mercalli scale. A measure of the perceived intensity of earthquake ground shaking with 12 divisions, from I (not felt by people) to XII (nearly total damage). It is a unitless expression of observed effects.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards**—Air quality standards established by the *Clean Air Act*, as amended. The primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards are intended to protect the public health with an adequate margin of safety, and the secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards are intended to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effect of a pollutant.

**National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants**—Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for air pollutants which are not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards and which may, at sufficiently high levels, cause increased fatalities, irreversible health effects, or incapacitating illness. These standards are given in 40 CFR Part 61 and 63. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants are given for many specific categories of sources (e.g., equipment leaks, industrial process cooling towers, dry-cleaning facilities, petroleum refineries). (See *hazardous air pollutants*.)

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969**—This Act is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment. It requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement for every major Federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Its main purpose is to provide environmental information to decision makers and



the public so that actions are based on an understanding of the potential environmental consequences of a proposed action and its reasonable alternatives.

***National Environmental Research Park***—An outdoor laboratory set aside for ecological research to study the environmental impacts of energy developments. National environmental research parks were established by the Department of Energy to provide protected land areas for research and education in the environmental sciences and to demonstrate the environmental compatibility of energy technology development and use.

***National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended***—This Act provides that property resources with significant national historic value be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It does not require any permits but, pursuant to Federal code, if a proposed action might impact an historic property resource, it mandates consultation with the proper agencies.

***National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System***—A provision of the *Clean Water Act* which prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a State, or, where delegated, a tribal government. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit lists either permissible discharges, the level of cleanup technology required for wastewater, or both.

***National Register of Historic Places***—The official list of the Nation's cultural resources that are worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains the list under direction of the Secretary of the Interior. Buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts are included in the National Register for their importance in American history, architecture, archeology, culture, or engineering. Properties included on the National Register range from large-scale, monumentally proportioned buildings to smaller-scale, regionally distinctive buildings. The listed properties are not just of nationwide importance; most are significant primarily at the State or local level. Procedures for listing properties on the National Register are found in 36 CFR Part 60.

***natural uranium***—Uranium with the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes (approximately 0.7-weight percent uranium-235 with the remainder essentially uranium-238). (See *uranium*, *depleted uranium*, and *enriched uranium*.)

***neutron***—An uncharged elementary particle with a mass slightly greater than that of the proton. Neutrons are found in the nucleus of every atom heavier than hydrogen-1.

***neutron flux***—The product of neutron number density and velocity (energy), giving an apparent number of neutrons flowing through a unit area per unit time.

***nitrogen***—A natural element with the atomic number 7. It is diatomic in nature and is a colorless and odorless gas that constitutes about four-fifths of the volume of the atmosphere.

***nitrogen oxides***—The oxides of nitrogen, primarily nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide. These are produced in the combustion of fossil fuels and can constitute an air pollution problem. Nitrogen dioxide emissions contribute to acid deposition and the formation of atmospheric ozone.

**noise**—Undesirable sound that interferes or interacts negatively with the human or natural environment. Noise may disrupt normal activities (e.g., hearing, sleep), damage hearing, or diminish the quality of the environment.

**nonattainment area**—An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as not meeting (i.e., not being in attainment of) one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants, but not for others.

**nonproliferation**—Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon materials, and nuclear weapon technology.

**normal operations**—All normal (incident-free) conditions and those abnormal conditions that frequency estimation techniques indicate occur with a frequency greater than 0.1 events per year.

**Notice of Intent**—Announces an agency's intent to prepare an EIS and describes the proposed action and possible alternatives and the scoping process. The scoping process includes holding at least one public meeting and requesting written comments on issues and environmental concerns that an EIS should address.

**nuclear assembly**—Collective term for the primary, secondary, and radiation case.

**nuclear component**—Part of a nuclear weapon that contains fissionable or fusionable material.

**nuclear criticality**—See *criticality*.

**nuclear excursion**—A very short time period (in milliseconds) during which the fission rate of a supercritical system increases, peaks, and then decreases to a low value.

**nuclear explosive**—Any assembly containing fissionable and/or fusionable materials and maincharge high-explosive parts or propellants capable of producing a nuclear detonation.

**nuclear facility**—A facility subject to requirements intended to control potential nuclear hazards. Defined in DOE directives as any nuclear reactor or any other facility whose operations involve radioactive materials in such form and quantity that a significant nuclear hazard potentially exists to the employees or the general public.

**nuclear grade**—Material of a quality adequate for use in a nuclear application.

**nuclear material**—Composite term applied to: 1) Special nuclear material; 2) Source material such as uranium, thorium, or ores containing uranium or thorium; and 3) Byproduct material, which is any radioactive material that is made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident or to the process of producing or using special nuclear material.

***Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty***—A treaty with the aim of controlling the spread of nuclear weapons technologies, limiting the number of nuclear weapons states and pursuing, in good faith, effective measures relating to the cessation for the nuclear arms race.

***Nuclear Posture Review***—A report, led by the Department of Defense, which addresses possible changes in U.S. nuclear policy.

***nuclear production***—Production operations for components of nuclear weapons that are fabricated from nuclear materials, including plutonium and uranium.

***nuclear radiation***—Particles (alpha, beta, neutrons) or photons (gamma) emitted from the nucleus of unstable radioactive atoms as a result of radioactive decay.

***Nuclear Regulatory Commission***—The Federal agency that regulates the civilian nuclear power industry in the United States.

***nuclear warhead***—A warhead that contains fissionable and fusionable material, the nuclear assembly, and nonnuclear components packaged as a deliverable weapon.

***nuclear weapon***—The general name given to any weapon in which the explosion results from the energy released by reactions involving atomic nuclei, either fission, fusion, or both.

***Nuclear Weapons Complex***—The sites supporting the research, development, design, manufacture, testing, assessment, certification, and maintenance of the Nation's nuclear weapons and the subsequent dismantlement of retired weapons.

***nuclide***—A species of atom characterized by the constitution of its nucleus and hence by the number of protons, the number of neutrons, and the energy content.

***Occupational Safety and Health Administration***—The U.S. Federal Government agency which oversees and regulates workplace health and safety; created by the *Occupational Safety and Health Act* of 1970.

***offsite***—Denotes a location, facility, or activity occurring outside of the boundary of a DOE Complex site.

***onsite***—Denotes a location or activity occurring within the boundary of a DOE Complex site.

***onsite population***—Department of Energy and contractor employees who are on duty, and badged onsite visitors.

***outfall***—The discharge point of a drain, sewer, or pipe as it empties into a body of water.

***ozone***—The tri-atomic form of oxygen; in the stratosphere, ozone protects Earth from the Sun's ultraviolet rays, but in lower levels of the atmosphere, ozone is considered an air pollutant.

***package***—For radioactive materials, the packaging, together with its radioactive contents, as presented for transport (the packaging plus the radioactive contents equals the package).

***packaging***—The assembly of components necessary to ensure compliance with Federal transportation regulations. It may consist of one or more receptacles, absorbent materials, spacing structures, thermal insulation, radiation shielding, and devices for cooling or absorbing mechanical shocks. The vehicle tie-down system and auxiliary equipment may be designated as part of the packaging.

***palentological resources***—The physical remains, impressions, or traces of plants or animals from a former geologic age; may be sources of information on ancient environments and the evolutionary development of plants and animals.

***Paleozoic***—Geologic time dating from 50 million to 245 million years ago when seed-bearing plants, amphibians, and reptiles first appeared.

***palustrine wetland***—Nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation.

***particulate matter (PM)***—Any finely divided solid or liquid material, other than uncombined (i.e., pure) water. A subscript denotes the upper limit of the diameter of particles included. Thus, P<sub>10</sub> includes only those particles equal to or less than 10 micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter; P<sub>2.5</sub> includes only those particles equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter.

***peak ground acceleration***—A measure of the maximum horizontal acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to the Earth's gravity) experienced by a particle on the surface of the Earth during the course of earthquake motion.

***Pennsylvanian***—A geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 320 and 286 million years ago.

***perched aquifer/groundwater***—A body of groundwater of small lateral dimensions separated from an underlying body of groundwater by an unsaturated zone.

***perchlorate***—Perchlorate originates as a contaminant in the environment from the solid salts of ammonium, potassium, or sodium perchlorate. It can persist for many decades under typical groundwater and surface water conditions. Ammonium perchlorate is manufactured for use as the oxidizer component and primary ingredient in solid propellant for rockets, missiles, and fireworks. Other uses of perchlorate salts include their use in nuclear reactors and electronic tubes, as additives in lubricating oils, and in aluminum refining.

***perennial stream***—A stream that flows throughout the year.

***Perimeter Intrusion Detection and Assessment System (PIDAS)***—A mutually supporting combination of barriers, clear zones, lighting, and electronic intrusion detection, assessment, and access control systems constituting the perimeter of a Complex protected area and designed to detect, impede, control, or deny access to the protected area.

***permeability***—In geology, the ability of rock or soil to transmit a fluid.

***Permian***—The final geologic time period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning between about 286 and 245 million years ago.

***person-rem***—The unit of collective radiation dose commitment to a given population; the sum of the individual doses received by a population segment.

***pit***—The central core of a nuclear weapon containing plutonium-239 and/or highly enriched uranium that undergoes fission when compressed by high explosives. The pit and the high explosive are known as the “primary” of a nuclear weapon.

***placer***—A surficial mineral deposit formed by mechanical concentration of valuable minerals from weathered debris, usually through the action of stream currents or waves.

***playa***—A dry lake bed in a desert basin or a closed depression that contains water on a seasonal basis.

***Pleistocene***—The geologic time period of the earliest epoch of the Quaternary period, spanning between about 1.6 million years ago and the beginning of the Holocene epoch at 10,000 years ago. It is characterized by the succession of northern glaciations, also called the “ice age.”

***plume***—The elongated pattern of contaminated air or water originating at a source, such as a smokestack or a hazardous waste disposal site.

***plutonium***—A heavy, radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 94. It is produced artificially by neutron bombardment of uranium. Plutonium has 15 isotopes with atomic masses ranging from 232 to 246 and half-lives from 20 minutes to 76 million years.

***plutonium-239***—An isotope of plutonium with a half-life of 24,110 years which is the primary radionuclide in weapons-grade plutonium. When plutonium-239 decays, it emits alpha particles.

***population dose***—See *collective dose*.

***Precambrian***—All geologic time before the beginning of the Paleozoic era. This includes about 90 percent of all geologic time and spans the time from the beginning of the Earth, about 4.5 billion years ago, to about 570 million years ago.

***prehistoric resources***—The physical remains of human activities that predate written records; they generally consist of artifacts that may alone or collectively yield otherwise inaccessible information about the past.

***prevention of significant deterioration***—Regulations required by the 1977 *Clean Air Act* amendments to limit increases in criteria air pollutant concentrations above baseline in areas that already meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Cumulative increases in pollutant levels after specified baseline dates must not exceed specified maximum allowable amounts.

These allowable increases, also known as increments, are especially stringent in areas designated as Class I areas (e.g., national parks, wilderness areas) where the preservation of clean air is particularly important. All areas not designated as Class I are currently designated as Class II. Maximum increments in pollutant levels are also given in 40 CFR 51.166 for Class III areas, if any such areas should be so designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Class III increments are less stringent than those for Class I or Class II areas. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*.)

***prime farmland***—Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oil seed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture (*Farmland Protection Act* of 1981, 7 CFR Part 7, paragraph 658).

***probabilistic risk assessment***—A comprehensive, logical, and structured methodology that accounts for population dynamics and human activity patterns at various levels of sophistication, considering time-space distributions and sensitive subpopulations. The probabilistic method results in a more complete characterization of the exposure information available, which is defined by probability distribution functions. This approach offers the possibility of an associated quantitative measure of the uncertainty around the value of interest.

***probable maximum flood***—Flood levels predicted for a scenario having hydrological conditions that maximize the flow of surface waters.

***process***—Any method or technique designed to change the physical or chemical character of the product.

***proliferation***—The spread of nuclear weapons and the materials and technologies used to produce them.

***prompt critical device***—A critical assembly designed to reach the condition of prompt criticality. Prompt criticality is the nuclear physics supercriticality condition, due to neutrons released immediately during the fission process, in which a mass and geometric configuration of fissile material (uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, or plutonium-241) results in an extremely rapid increase in the number of fissions from one neutron generation to the next. Prompt criticality does not rely on the releases of delayed neutrons, which are not released immediately, but rather over a period of about one minute after fission. Prompt criticality describes the condition in which the nuclear fission reaction is not only self-sustaining, but also increasing at a very rapid rate.

***protected area***—A type of security area defined by physical barriers (i.e., walls or fences), to which access is controlled, used for protection of security Category II special nuclear materials and classified matter and/or to provide a concentric security zone surrounding a material access area (security Category I nuclear materials) or a vital area. (See *material access area* and *vital area*.)

**proton**—An elementary nuclear particle with a positive charge equal in magnitude to the negative charge of the electron; it is a constituent of all atomic nuclei, and the atomic number of an element indicates the number of protons in the nucleus of each atom of that element.

**pulsed assemblies**—A critical assembly designed to produce a brief emission of neutrons and gamma radiation associated with a critical condition which lasts a fraction of a second.

**Quaternary**—The second geologic time period of the Cenozoic era, dating from about 1.6 million years ago to the present. It contains two epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene. It is characterized by the first appearance of human beings on Earth.

**rad**—The English unit of absorbed dose, a rad is 0.01 joule of energy deposited per kilogram of absorbing material. A joule is a very small amount of energy. For example, a 60-watt light bulb on for about 0.02 seconds would use one joule of energy. It is historically derived from “radiation absorbed dose.”

**radiation (ionizing)**—See *ionizing radiation*.

**radioactive waste**—In general, waste that is managed for its radioactive content. Waste material that contains source, special nuclear, or byproduct material is subject to regulation as radioactive waste under the *Atomic Energy Act*. Also, waste material that contains accelerator-produced radioactive material or a high concentration of naturally occurring radioactive material may be considered radioactive waste.

**radioactivity**—*Defined as a process:* The spontaneous transformation of unstable atomic nuclei, usually accompanied by the emission of ionizing radiation. *Defined as a property:* The property of unstable nuclei in certain atoms to spontaneously emit ionizing radiation during nuclear transformations.

**radioisotope or radionuclide**—An unstable isotope that undergoes spontaneous transformation, emitting radiation. (See *isotope*.)

**radon**—A radioactive noble gas with the atomic number 86, resulting from the radioactive decay of radium. Radon occurs naturally in the environment and can collect in unventilated enclosed areas, such as basements. Large concentrations of radon can result in the accumulation of radioactive radon progeny which can cause lung cancer in humans.

**RADTRAN**—A computer code combining user-determined meteorological, demographic, transportation, packaging, and material factors with health physics data to calculate the expected radiological consequences and accident risk of transporting radioactive material.

**Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT)**—The lowest emissions limit that a particular source is capable of meeting by the application of control technology that is reasonably available as well as technologically and economically feasible.

**receiving waters**—Rivers, lakes, oceans, or other bodies of water into which wastewaters are discharged.

**recharge**—Replenishment of water to an aquifer.

**Record of Decision (ROD)**—A document prepared in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 1505.2 and 10 CFR 1021.315 that provides a concise public record of DOE's decision on a proposed action for which an EIS was prepared. A ROD identifies the alternatives considered in reaching the decision; the environmentally preferable alternative; factors balanced by DOE in making the decision, and whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and, if not, the reasons they were not.

**reference concentration**—An estimate of a toxic chemical daily inhalation of the human population (including sensitive subgroups) likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime. Those effects are both to the respiratory system (portal-of-entry) and the peripheral to the respiratory system (extra-respiratory effects). It is expressed in units of micrograms per cubic meter.

**region of influence**—A site-specific geographic area in which the principal direct and indirect effects of actions are likely to occur and expected to be of consequence for local jurisdictions.

**regional economic area**—A geographic area consisting of an economic node and the surrounding counties that are economically related and include the places of work and residences of the labor force. Each regional economic area is defined by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**regulated substance**—A general term used to refer to materials other than radionuclides that may be regulated by other applicable Federal, State, or local requirements.

**reliability**—The ability of a nuclear weapon, weapon system, or weapon component to perform its required function under stated conditions for a specified period of time. (Essentially equivalent to performance.)

**rem**—The English unit of dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in rem equals the absorbed dose in rad in tissue multiplied by the appropriate quality factor and possibly other modifying factors. Historically derived from "roentgen equivalent man," referring to the dosage of ionizing radiation that will cause the same biological effect as 1 roentgen of x-ray or gamma ray exposure. (See *absorbed dose* and *dose equivalent*.)

**remediation**—The process, or a phase in the process, of rendering radioactive, hazardous, or mixed waste environmentally safe, whether through processing, entombment, or other methods.

**remote-handled waste**—In general, refers to radioactive waste that must be handled at a distance to protect workers from unnecessary exposure (e.g., waste with a dose rate of 200 millirem per hour or more at the surface of the waste package). (See *contact-handled waste*.)



**replacement pit fabrication**—This function includes the fabrication, surveillance, and storage of the primary high explosive and plutonium core of a nuclear weapon.

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**—This Act gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the "cradle-to-grave." This includes the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of nonhazardous wastes.

**retrofit**—To furnish (e.g., a weapon) with new parts, equipment, or features not available at the time of manufacture.

**rhyolite**—A fine-grained, silica-rich igneous rock, the extrusive equivalent of granite.

**riparian**—Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

**risk**—The probability of a detrimental effect from exposure to a hazard. Risk is often expressed quantitatively as the probability of an adverse event occurring multiplied by the consequence of that event (i.e., the product of these two factors).

**risk assessment (chemical or radiological)**—The qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed in an effort to define the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the presence or potential presence and/or use of specific chemical or radiological materials.

**roentgen**—A unit of exposure to ionizing x-ray or gamma radiation equal to or producing one electrostatic unit of charge per cubic centimeter of air. It is approximately equal to 1 rad.

**runoff**—The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across the ground surface and eventually enters streams.

**Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended**—This Act protects the quality of public water supplies, water supply and distribution systems, and all sources of drinking water.

**safe secure trailer**—A specially modified semitrailer, pulled by an armored tractor truck, which DOE uses to transport nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons components, or special nuclear material over public highways.

**safeguard**—An integrated system of physical protection, material accounting, and material control measures designed to deter, prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized access, possession, use, or sabotage of nuclear materials.

**safety analysis report**—A report that systematically identifies potential hazards within a nuclear facility, describes and analyzes the adequacy of measures to eliminate or control identified hazards, and analyzes potential accidents and their associated risks. Safety analysis reports are used to ensure that a nuclear facility can be constructed, operated, maintained, shut down, and decommissioned safely and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Safety analysis reports are required for DOE nuclear facilities and as a part of applications for U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission licenses. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations or DOE orders and technical standards that apply to the facility type provide specific requirements for the content of safety analysis reports. (See *nuclear facility*.)

**sandstone**—A sedimentary rock composed mostly of sand-size particles cemented usually by calcite, silica, or iron oxide.

**sanitary waste**—Waste generated by normal housekeeping activities, liquid or solid (includes sludge), which is not hazardous or radioactive.

**sanitization**—An irreversible modification or destruction of a component or part of a component to the extent required to prevent revealing classified or otherwise controlled information.

**scope**—In a document prepared pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969, the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered.

**scoping**—An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to a Proposed Action. The scoping period begins after publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. The public scoping process is that portion of the process where the public is invited to participate. DOE also conducts an early internal scoping process for environmental assessments or EISs. For EISs, this internal scoping process precedes the public scoping process. DOE's scoping procedures are found in 10 CFR 1021.311.

**scrubber**—An air pollution control device that uses a spray of water or reactant or a dry process to trap pollutants in emissions.

**sealed pit**—A nuclear weapon pit that is hermetically closed to protect nuclear material from the environment.

**secondary**—See *weapon secondary*.

**security**—An integrated system of activities, systems, programs, facilities, and policies for the protection of restricted data and other classified information or matter, nuclear materials, nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons components, and/or DOE contractor facilities, property, and equipment.

**sedimentation**—The settling out of soil and mineral solids from suspension in water.

**seismic**—Earth vibration caused by an earthquake or an explosion.

**seismicity**—The relative frequency and distribution of earthquakes.

**severe accident**—An accident with a frequency of less than  $10^{-6}$  per year that would have more severe consequences than a design-basis accident in terms of damage to the facility, offsite consequences, or both.

**sewage**—The total organic waste and wastewater generated by an industrial establishment or a community.

**shielding**—In regard to radiation, any material of obstruction (e.g., bulkheads, walls, or other construction) that absorbs radiation to protect personnel or equipment.

**short-lived activation product**—An element formed from neutron interaction that has a relatively short half-life that is not produced from the fission reaction (e.g., a cobalt isotope formed from impurities in the metal of the reactor piping).

**short-lived nuclides**—Radioactive isotopes with half-lives no greater than about 30 years.

**shrink-well potential**—The potential for soils to contract while drying and expand after wetting.

**sievert**—The International System of Units (SI) unit of radiation dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in sieverts equals the absorbed dose in grays multiplied by the appropriate quality factor (1 sievert is equal to 100 rem). (See *gray*.)

**silica gel**—An amorphous, highly adsorbent form of silicon dioxide.

**silt**—A sedimentary material consisting of fine mineral particles intermediate in size between sand and clay.

**siltstone**—A sedimentary rock composed of fine textured materials.

**soils**—All unconsolidated materials above bedrock. Natural earthy materials on the Earth's surface, in places modified or even made by human activity, containing living matter, and supporting or capable of supporting plants out of doors.

**somatic effect**—Any effect that may manifest in the body of the exposed individual over his or her lifetime.

**source material**—Depleted uranium, normal uranium, thorium, or any other nuclear material determined, pursuant to Section 61 of the *Atomic Energy Act* of 1954, as amended, to be source material, or ores containing one or more of the foregoing materials in such concentration as may be determined by regulation.

**source term**—The amount of a specific pollutant (e.g., chemical, radionuclide) emitted or discharged to a particular environmental medium (e.g., air, water) from a source or group of sources. It is usually expressed as a rate (i.e., amount per unit time).

**special nuclear materials**—As defined in Section 11 of the *Atomic Energy Act* of 1954, special nuclear material means: 1) Plutonium, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and any other material which the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines to be special nuclear material; or 2) Any material artificially enriched by any of the above.

***spectral (response) acceleration***—An approximate measure of the acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to Earth's gravity) experienced by a building, as modeled by a particle on a massless vertical rod having the same natural period of vibration as the building.

***spectral characteristics***—The natural property of a structure as it relates to the multidimensional temporal accelerations.

***staging***—The process of using two layers to achieve a combined effect greater than that of one layer.

***START I and II***—Terms which refer to negotiations between the United States and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) during *Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty* (START) I negotiations aimed at limiting and reducing nuclear arms. START I discussions began in 1982 and eventually led to a ratified treaty in 1988. START II protocol, which has not been fully ratified, will attempt to further reduce the acceptable levels of nuclear weapons ratified in START I.

***steppe***—A semi-arid, grass-covered, and generally treeless plain.

***stockpile***—The inventory of active nuclear weapons for strategic defense of the United States.

***stockpile stewardship program***—A program that ensures the operational readiness (i.e., safety and reliability) of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile by the appropriate balance of surveillance, experiments, and simulations.

***Stockpile surveillance***—Routine and periodic examination, evaluation, and testing of stockpile weapons and weapon components to ensure that they conform to performance specifications and to identify and evaluate the effect of unexpected or age-related requirements.

***strategic reserve***—That quantity of plutonium and highly enriched uranium reserved for future weapons use. For the purposes of this SPEIS, strategic reserves of plutonium will be in the form of pits, and strategic reserves of highly enriched uranium will be in the form of canned secondary assemblies. Strategic reserves also include limited quantities of plutonium and highly enriched uranium metal maintained as working inventory at DOE laboratories.

***stratigraphy***—Division of geology dealing with the definition and description of rocks and soils, especially sedimentary rocks.

***sulfur oxides***—Common air pollutants, primarily sulfur dioxide, a heavy, pungent, colorless gas (formed in the combustion of fossil fuels, considered a major air pollutant), and sulfur trioxide. Sulfur dioxide is involved in the formation of acid rain. It can also irritate the upper respiratory tract and cause lung damage.

***Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986***—Public Law 99-499 which amends the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act* (CERCLA) of 1980. SARA more stringently defines hazardous waste cleanup standards and emphasizes remedies that permanently and significantly reduce the mobility, toxicity, or volume of wastes. Title III of SARA, the *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act*,

mandates establishment of community emergency planning programs, emergency notification, reporting of chemicals, and emission inventories.

**surface water**—All bodies of water on the surface of the earth and open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, seas, and estuaries.

**Tertiary**—The first geologic time period of the Cenozoic era (after the Mesozoic era and before the Quaternary period), spanning between about 66 and 1.6 million years ago. During this period, mammals became the dominant life form on Earth.

**thermonuclear**—The process by which very high temperatures are used to bring about the fusion of light nuclei, such as deuterium and tritium, with the accompanying release of energy.

**Third Third wastes**—The Environmental Protection Agency proposed the Third Thirds Rule, as required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, to establish treatment standards and effective dates for all wastes (including characteristic wastes) for which treatment standards had not yet been promulgated (40 CFR 268.12), including derived-from wastes (i.e., multi-storage leachage), and for mixed radioactive/hazardous wastes.

**threat**—1) A person, group, or movement with intentions to use extant or attainable capabilities to undertake malevolent actions against DOE interests; 2) The capability of an adversary coupled with his intentions to undertake any actions detrimental to the success of DOE program activities or operation.

**threatened species**—Any plants or animals likely to become endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges and which have been listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures set in the *Endangered Species Act* and its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 424). (See *endangered species*.)

**threshold limit values**—The recommended highest concentrations of contaminants to which workers may be exposed according to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

**total effective dose equivalent**—The sum of the effective dose equivalent from external exposures and the committed effective dose equivalent from internal exposures.

**Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976**—This Act authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to secure information on all new existing chemical substances and to control any of these substances determined to cause an unreasonable risk to public health or the environment. This law requires that the health and environmental effects of all new chemicals be reviewed by the Environmental Protection Agency before they are manufactured for commercial purposes.

**Transuranic (TRU)**—Any element whose atomic number is higher than that of uranium (atomic number 92), including neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium. All transuranic elements are produced artificially and are radioactive.

***Transuranic Package Transporter Model 2 (TRUPACT 2)***—A version of Type B transportation container (see *Type B packaging*) used for transporting transuranic waste. It is made of stainless steel, approximately 8 feet in diameter, 10 feet high, and constructed with leak-tight inner and outer containment vessels. TRUPACT 2 can hold up to 14 55-gallon waste drums, 2 standard waste boxes, or 1 10-drum over-pack (a container designed to provide additional protection for older, deteriorating drums).

***transuranic waste***—Radioactive waste not classified as high-level radioactive waste and that contains more than 100 nanocuries (3,700 becquerels) per gram of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes with half-lives greater than 20 years.

***tritium***—A radioactive isotope of the element hydrogen with two neutrons and one proton. Common symbols for the isotope are H-3 and T.

***tuff***—A fine-grained rock composed of ash or other material formed by volcanic explosion or aerial expulsion from a volcanic vent.

***Type B packaging***—A regulatory category of packaging for transportation of radioactive material. The U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission require Type B packaging for shipping highly radioactive material. Type B packages must be designed and demonstrated to retain their containment and shielding integrity under severe accident conditions, as well as under the normal conditions of transport. The current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission testing criteria for Type B package designs (10 CFR Part 71) are intended to simulate severe accident conditions, including impact, puncture, fire, and immersion in water. The most widely recognized Type B packages are the massive casks used for transporting spent nuclear fuel. Large-capacity cranes and mechanical lifting equipment are usually needed to handle Type B packages.

***Type B shipping cask***—A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-certified cask with a protective covering that contains and shields radioactive materials, dissipates heat, prevents damage to the contents, and prevents criticality during normal shipment and accident conditions. It is used for transport of highly radioactive materials and is tested under severe, hypothetical accident conditions that demonstrate resistance to impact, puncture, fire, and submersion in water.

***unconfined aquifer***—A permeable geological unit having the following properties: a water-filled pore space (saturated), the capability to transmit significant quantities of water under ordinary differences in pressure, and an upper water boundary that is at atmospheric pressure.

***unsaturated zone (vadose)***—A region in a porous medium in which the pore space is not filled with water.

***uranium***—A radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 92; one of the heaviest naturally occurring elements. Uranium has 14 known isotopes, of which uranium-238 is the most abundant in nature. Uranium-235 is commonly used as a fuel for nuclear fission. (See *natural uranium*, *enriched uranium*, and *depleted uranium*.)

***vault (special nuclear material [SNM])***—A penetration-resistant, windowless enclosure having an intrusion alarm system activated by opening the door and which also has: 1) Walls, floor, and ceiling substantially constructed of materials which afford forced-penetration resistance at least equivalent to that of 20.32-centimeter (8-inch) thick reinforced concrete; and 2) A built-in combination-locked steel door which, for existing structures, is at least 2.54-centimeter (1-inch) thick exclusive of bolt work and locking devices and which, for new structures, meets standards set forth in Federal specifications and standards.

***viewshed***—The extent of an area that may be viewed from a particular location. Viewsheds are generally bounded by topographic features such as hills or mountains.

***vital area***—A type of DOE security area that is located within the Protected Area and that has a separate perimeter and access controls to afford layered protection, including intrusion detection, for vital equipment.

***Visual Resource Management Class***—Any of the classifications of visual resources established through application of the Visual Resources Management process of the Bureau of Land Management. Four classifications are employed to describe different degrees of modification to landscape elements: ***Class I***—areas where the natural landscape is preserved, including national wilderness areas and the wild sections of national wild and scenic rivers; ***Class II***—areas with very limited land development activity, resulting in visual contrasts that are seen but do not attract attention; ***Class III***—areas in which development may attract attention, but the natural landscape still dominates; and ***Class IV***—areas in which development activities may dominate the view and may be the major focus in the landscape.

***vitrification***—A waste treatment process that uses glass (e.g., borosilicate glass) to encapsulate or immobilize radioactive wastes to prevent them from reacting with the surroundings in disposal sites.

***volatile organic compounds (VOC)***—A broad range of organic compounds, often halogenated, that vaporize at ambient or relatively low temperatures, such as benzene, chloroform, and methyl alcohol. In regard to air pollution, any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reaction, except for those designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

***warhead***—Collective term for the package of nuclear assembly and non-nuclear components that can be mated with a delivery vehicle or carrier to produce a deliverable nuclear weapon.

***waste classification***—Waste classified according to DOE Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management, including high-level radioactive, transuranic, and low-level radioactive waste.

***Waste Isolation Pilot Plant***—A facility in southeastern New Mexico developed as the disposal site for transuranic waste (not in operation prior to publication).

**waste management**—The planning, coordination, and direction of those functions related to the generation, handling, treatment, storage, transportation, and disposal of waste, as well as associated surveillance and maintenance activities.

**waste minimization and pollution prevention**—An action that economically avoids or reduces the generation of waste and pollution by source reduction, reducing the toxicity of hazardous waste and pollution, improving energy use, or recycling. These actions will be consistent with the general goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health, safety, and the environment.

**water table**—Water under the surface of the ground occurs in two zones: an upper unsaturated zone and the deeper saturated zone. The boundary between the two zones is the water table.

**watt** —A unit of power equal to 1 joule per second. (See *joule*.)

**weapon primary**—The crucial subsystem for weapon reliability and safety; the primary contains the main high explosive and the plutonium that comprise the principal safety concerns. Without proper primary-stage function, the secondary will not work.

**weapon secondary**—Provides additional explosive energy release; composed of lithium deuterium, and other materials. As the secondary implodes, the lithium in the isotopy forms lithium-6, is converted to tritium by neutron interactions, and the tritium product in turn undergoes fusion with the deuterium to create the thermonuclear explosion.

**weapons-grade**—Fissionable material in which the abundance of fissionable isotopes is high enough that the material is suitable for use in thermonuclear weapons.

**weapons assembly/disassembly (A/D)**—Assembly operations assembles piece parts into subassemblies using joining techniques such as welding, adhesive bonding, and mechanical joining. Disassembly takes retired weapons apart and recycles all materials of value.

**weighting factor**—Generally, a method of attaching different importance values to different items or characteristics. In the context of radiation protection, the proportion of the risk of effects resulting from irradiation of a particular organ or tissue to the total risk of effects when the whole body is irradiated uniformly (e.g., the organ dose weighting factor for the lung is 0.12, compared to 1.0 for the whole body). Weighting factors are used for calculating the effective dose equivalent.

**wetland**—“[T]hose areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (33 CFR 328.3).

**whole-body dose**—In regard to radiation, dose resulting from the uniform exposure of all organs and tissues in a human body. (See *effective dose equivalent*.)



**wind rose**—A circular diagram showing, for a specific location, the percentage of the time the wind is from each compass direction. A wind rose for use in assessing consequences of airborne releases also shows the frequency of different wind speeds for each compass direction.

**worker year**—Measurement of labor requirement equal to one full-time worker employed for one year.

**$X/Q$  ( $Chi/Q$ )**—The relative calculated air concentration due to a specific air release; units are seconds per cubic meter ( $\text{sec}/\text{m}^3$ ).

**yield**—The force in tons of TNT of a nuclear or thermonuclear explosion.

**zero-based stockpile**—A nuclear weapons stockpile with zero nuclear weapons and therefore requiring no stockpile management effort.